

e-Bugle

Garrett Bugle Internet Edition

Volume 54

March 2007

No. 3



Calendar

Sun., Mar. 25	Concert, Holy Cross, 4 pm (see p 4)	Fri., Apr. 13	Film Society, <i>Cold Comfort Farm</i> , Town Hall, 7 pm
Wed., Mar. 28	Nominations for Town Council positions, Town Hall, 8 pm	Sun. Apr. 15	Women's Club meeting, Town Hall, 3 pm (see p 4)
Thurs., Mar. 29	Garrett Park CAN meeting, Town Hall, 7:30 pm (see p 5)	Wed., Apr. 18	GP CAN meeting, energy efficiency, Town Hall, 7:30 (see p 5)
Sat., Mar. 31	Voter registration, Town Office, 8 am–noon; GIVES collection, Penn Place lobby, 9 am–1 pm; Rock Creek cleanup, Beach Drive, 9 am–12 noon (see p 4)	Thurs. Apr. 19	Casual Music Jam, Town Hall, 8 pm
Thurs., Apr. 5	Casual Music Jam, Town Hall, 8 pm	Wed., Apr. 25	Citizens Assoc. meeting, Town Hall, 8 pm, Candidates' Forum
Sat., Apr. 7	Large item pickup; Voter registration, Town Office, 8 am–noon	Fri., Apr. 27	Last day to apply for absentee ballots
Mon., Apr. 9	Town Council meeting, Town Hall, 8 pm; last day to register to vote in town election	Sun., Apr. 29	Yard sale fundraiser, 8 am–4 pm, 10711 Weymouth (see p 5)
Tues., Apr. 10	Lunch Bunch, Town Hall, 12:30 pm; <i>Bugle</i> deadline, 4 pm	Sat., May 5	Garrett Park Elementary Spring Fair, 10 am–3 pm
		Mon., May 7	Town Council election
		Sun., May 13	Musicale, Town Hall, 2 pm

Startling Gas Bills

A big crowd gathered at the Town Hall, on a wonderfully warm springlike day, for the March Town Council meeting. Since the crowds were there mainly in connection with citizen presentations with regard to variances, we all waited for Harry Gordon, representing the Historic Preservation Committee, to arrive.

While we waited, Councilman Soltan, during Committee Reports, said that the town rights of way committee has a revised copy of committee recommendations. The main question, though, remains: How will the town determine boundaries? How does this determination relate to what the town would like to do in terms of rights of way?

(continued next page)

Garrett Park Citizens Association
Garrett Park, Maryland 20896-0456

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(continued from previous page)

Ah. Here comes Harry, to present the first variance request to the Council: 10801 Montrose would like to build—has already started to build—a shed under a deck. The Council was very fussy about what seemed a relatively small variance, though I suppose this is what’s known as careful civic procedure. Some Councilmembers were irritated that the home-owners had not given the Council notice of their plans.

The variance was granted conditionally—clarification of some points was needed. The bottom line was that there should have been a full application in advance.

Variance no. 2, 4700 Clyde, involved removing an old part of the building and rebuilding with a porch. This was approved on condition that the porch never be enclosed. (This is a historically significant house, by the way—in the old days, Council meetings were held there.) This variance also was granted.

In the Mayor’s Report, she noted that she recently testified for two bills involving the ability of towns to own their own streetlights. This bill has passed its committees, and will soon be considered by the general assembly.

The Mayor went on to congratulate Peter Benjamin on his appointment to the Metro board. Because of this, he won’t be able to hold elective office, so he must resign from the Council on confirmation of his appointment. Peter wants to help, however, on our Capital Plan and budget, if the Council would like this. I think the Council would like this.

The Mayor also announced a new ad hoc committee: NEAR: “Neighbors’ Essential Action Response.” They are looking for volunteers to help people who need assistance in bad weather, emergencies, and so forth—quite timely, given the recent house fire in town.

Tony Altar updated us on the town Web site. We’ve met with the designers and think their work is terrific. We should have a really improved and interactive site this year. “Many thanks to Martin Trocki and to Jim Cole for their great service to the town.” Tony also mentioned that all of the 20 mph signs have now been installed.

It was then back to the Mayor, who announced that the following election judges have been approved: Shirin Keyani, Judy Heyman, and Linda Knowles.

Finally, the town administrator said that we are pretty much within our budget. The only possible problem has to do with the cost of fuel and with equipment repairs. “I’ve been a little startled at the gas bills.” Your reporter solves this problem by handing them directly to her husband, unopened.

Margaret Soltan

House Fire

The Unterman house on Kenilworth Avenue suffered a two alarm fire on Wednesday, March 14. The contents of the house were destroyed. The cause was improperly discarded smoking materials.

As a result of the fire, Sonny Unterman received burns to his upper body and went to Suburban Hospital, but was released in the evening. The family dog, Roy, died from smoke inhalation. Denise Unterman and son Aaron were not at home at the time.

Fire companies, seven or eight of them, responded quickly. They parked all up and down Kenilworth, from the Untermans’ to Strathmore Avenue. By 6 pm most had cleared out. A salvage company stayed later to put plywood over the openings in the house.

Jim Resnick, fire chief of one of the engine companies that responded, observed that this community rallies around its own when they are hurting. Also, according to Resnick, he and the Untermans hope something positive can come from this unhappy situation if others learn from it. He described three important steps to take: (1) change the batteries in your smoke detectors every six months; (2) have a home fire safety plan—an escape plan and a meeting place so that everyone knows where to meet after they escape; and (3) don’t try to fight the fire yourself—small fires can get very big quickly. Instead, take your cell phone, get outside, and call 911.

The Untermans will be staying in Garrett Park; they are relocating to another house in town. Son Aaron will continue at the University of Maryland, graduating in May. If any residents wish to offer the family help, call Melissa Bronez of the Citizens Association or neighbor Suzanne Curt.

Mary Moyer



The *Garrett Bugle* is a publication of the Citizens Association of Garrett Park, published 10 times a year. Publication of the *Bugle* is supported by member dues. All residents of Garrett Park are members of the Citizens Association. Yearly dues (\$20 per family or \$10 per individual per address) can be sent to Citizens Association, Box 456, Garrett Park, MD 20896.

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Out-of-town subscriptions cost \$13 (first class) or \$10 (bulk mail). Letters to the editor can be submitted by mail or hand to *Bugle* staff or by e-mail. The editor reserves the right to edit submissions for length and clarity. Unsigned letters will not be printed.

Town Administrator Notes

Citizens Association Meeting. Please plan to attend the Citizens Association meeting in the Town Hall on Wednesday, March 28, at 8 pm, when nominations for the May 7 Town Election will be made. Three Council seats are up for election: those of Councilmembers Altar, Benjamin, and Soltan. Councilmember Peter Benjamin will not be a candidate for reelection this year, as his recent appointment to the Metro board prevents him from serving as an elected official.

State Tax Form. This is really important. When filling out your state income tax forms, please remember to write Garrett Park in the box labeled "City, Town or Taxing Area." This ensures that our community receives its fair share of the income tax revenues that the state distributes to Maryland counties, cities, and towns.

Voter Registration for May Elections. The last day for voter registration for the May 2007 town elections is April 9. If you need a registration form, please pick one up at the Town Office during normal office hours (8 am–4 pm), the Montgomery County Board of Elections, or the Post Office. Noncitizen residents of Garrett Park who are not already on the town's voters list and who wish to vote in the May election must also register by April 9 at the Town Office. The Town Office will be open from 8 am to noon on Saturday, March 31 and April 7, for those who are unable to come in during the week. Absentee ballots may be applied for at any time through April 27 and must be received by the Town Office before the polls close on Election Day.

FY 2008 Budget. Copies of the introduced fiscal year 2008 budget are available in the Post Office. If those run out, please come by the Town Office for a copy.

Yard Waste Collection and Large Item Pickup. That annual harbinger of spring, weekly yard waste collection, has returned, as it does every March. Yard waste is now collected every Monday through the end of October. Also, there will be a large item pickup on Saturday, April 7.

Walk Smart/Drive Safely. As the weather improves, Garrett Park residents often stroll through the parks and streets to enjoy our beauti-

ful surroundings. Walkers, please remember to be mindful of turning vehicles, wear light colors or reflective clothing to be more visible at night, and obey traffic signs, signals, and street crossing markings. Drivers, please yield to pedestrians, observe posted speed limits (now 20 mph), and—as usual—be courteous.

Permits. If you are planning construction this spring, remember that a Garrett Park building permit is required whenever a new structure is to be built, including houses, additions, sheds, garages, decks, porches, and driveways. This is in addition to the required Montgomery County permit. Please call the Town Office (301-933-7488) for a permit application, copies of the setback ordinance, and any other information.

Ted Pratt, Town Administrator
garrett-park@comcast.net

We're Still Green!

Jack Wilpers paid for this month's greening in memory of his wife, Marian. He noted that the *Bugle* was one of Marian's favorite reading materials. We thank him, and remember Marian fondly.

Did you use the envelope in the January issue to pay your Citizens Association dues? If you lost yours, make out a new one and mail it to Box 456. According to treasurer Jenny Krivanek, a good portion of the town has paid this year. Thanks!

Mary Moyer

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Art at Penn Place

The graphic artist whose work is being shown in the latest exhibit in the Gallery at Penn Place is town resident Linda Maloney Paine. Linda grew up in nearby Parkwood and attended Walter Johnson High School. She then attended the Maryland Institute College of Art in Baltimore. She has lived in Garrett Park for over 20 years.

Linda is an Art Director and Senior Graphic Designer for EDS. For the past 10 years, she has been working on contract for U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. The posters and cover art featured in her exhibition are a selection of Linda's favorite projects for the USCIS. Because this agency deals with the education and naturalization of new citizens, most of the pieces in the exhibit are creative arrangements of familiar sym-

bols of citizenship—the flag, the Statue of Liberty, the Constitution, the Capitol dome.

Linda collects the elements of her work from many sources. She uses historic photographs and commissions new photographs—like those of the waving flags and the Statue of Liberty. She achieved the red background behind one view of Ms. Liberty by scanning a piece of cloth she had at home. Another publication, on international adoption, features photographs of several Garrett Park families.

Linda's most recent project is the cover of a new publication called *The Citizen's Almanac*. It will be launched by the Secretary of Homeland Security during a special ceremony in mid-March. Thereafter, a copy of the publication will be given to all new citizens when they take the oath of citizenship.

This exhibit gives us the chance to enjoy the work of another of Garrett Park's creative citizens. It will hang from March 5 through April 14. Come upstairs after getting your mail and have a look.

Nancy Schwartz

Rock Creek Cleanup

On Saturday, March 31, local groups throughout the Potomac River watershed will be cleaning up trash along our waterways. Rock Creek near Garrett Park is an eyesore, with large quantities of accumulated plastic bags, soda cans, and junk littering the floodplain. A group will be meeting at 9 am on that day to clean up Rock Creek along Beach Drive, and more volunteers are needed.

If you can help, meet at the parking area on Beach Drive approximately 1000 feet south of the intersection with Knowles Avenue. The group will be working from 9 am to 12 noon, under leader Charles Andrews. For more information, contact him.

Concert at Holy Cross

On Sunday, March 25, at 4 pm, a concert will be held at Holy Cross Church in celebration of the Feast of the Annunciation. The Holy Cross Parish and School Choirs are presenting the concert in conjunction with the Institute of Sacred Music of Catholic University's Benjamin T. Rome School of Music. Music will include works by Schütz, Biber, Biebl, Mozart, Tavener, and Vivaldi. A free-will offering will be collected. For more information, call 202-347-0370, or see the poster in the Post Office lobby.

New Leaders for Women's Club

Garrett Park residents Celia Hayes and Kay Austin have agreed to assume responsibilities as co-presidents of the Garrett Park Women's Club. Celia has lived on Cambria Avenue since 2000, and Kay on Strathmore since 2001. Both Celia and Kay have organized Women's Club Attic in the Street events for the past two years and are eager to begin serving the club in their new roles. Stepping down from the role of club president is Ellen Quigley.

The new co-presidents are holding a meeting of the full membership on Sunday, April 15, at 3 pm at the Town Hall. The meeting will be an opportunity to meet the members, provide a means for Garrett Park women to engage in the larger "community of women" in Garrett Park, and particularly, to begin planning for the Progressive Dinner and other annual Women's Club events. The meeting will feature wine and cheese, fruit and crackers, and chocolate. Contributions will be accepted.

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Climate Action Now

An ad-hoc committee of citizens concerned about global warming gathered at Jennifer Sass’s home on Saturday, March 10, to discuss actions that could be taken to curb greenhouse gas emissions. Out of that group of nine adults and five young people grew Garrett Park Climate Action Now—or *GP CAN*—our own effort to explore unique and local solutions to a massive and global environmental issue. The group discussed educating and advocating for consumer (and maybe town) choice of green power. Another idea was to submit regular small notes to the *Bugle*, giving practical tips for greening one’s lifestyle.

On Thursday, March 29, at 7:30 in the Town Hall, the committee is sponsoring Carole Douglass, one of the certified presenters of the Al Gore slide show “An Inconvenient Truth.” After the presentation, we’ll have a facilitated brainstorming session about ideas that townspeople want to explore further. Please join us and invite a friend, neighbor, family member, or work colleague.

Then, on Wednesday, April 18, the focus turns personal. At 7:30 in the Town Hall, with guest speakers Susan Kirby and Eric Hoffman of Montgomery County’s Department of Environmental Protection, we’ll learn what each of us can do to make our homes more energy efficient, and how homeowners and renters alike can take advantage of the county’s new program to offset the cost of renewable energy, *Clean Energy Rewards*.

Garrett Park CAN will be organizing future events and sponsoring activities based on the ideas raised at the March 29 meeting. Please attend on March 29 if you can; if you can’t, but still want to be involved, contact Janet Wegner, Jennifer Sass, or Karen Anderson.


Yard Sale Fundraiser

Michael Abrams is planning a yard sale to raise money for a lung transplant for a distant cousin who suffers from cystic fibrosis. The sale will take place on April 29 from 8 am to 4 pm at 10711 Weymouth Street. Donations can also be made directly to “Max’s Fund.” They can be sent to the Abrams family or to Mako Haggerty, PO Box 2001, Homer, AK 99603.


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School News

Garrett Park Elementary is still collecting used toner cartridges from printers. If you have any you wish to get rid of, drop them off at the office. The school receives \$1 for every cartridge turned in to the recycling center. Also being collected are the “Box Tops for Education” coupons that appear on various boxes of food. Clip those out and send them along to the office too. The red dumpster in the parking lot could also stand to be filled with old newspapers.

Do you have a child who will be 5 by September 1? It’s now time to start to enroll children for next year’s kindergarten. Call the school (301-929-2170) to start the registration process. We’re getting the materials ready that will need to be filled out before orientation in May. If your child will turn 5 during September, and you think he or she is developed socially and academically enough for kindergarten, call the Early Childhood Development Office (301-230-0691) to discuss your options.

The Spring Fair is right around the corner, May 5 to be exact. Back again will be the toy and plant sales, inflatable games, and games of skill. Take some time to clean out your kids’ toy chests and put toys aside for the sale. If you can help on the day of the sale, call Barbara Ferry (301-962-6390). This is also an opportunity for high schoolers to earn some community service time.


The school musical, *Annie*, is being prepared by members of the Musical Theatre club for its March 26 opening and closing. And on March 28, the Kindergarten through 4th grade will present their Science Fair, starting at 6 pm in the multi-purpose room.

The Silent Auction and Bingo Night netted the school \$6000, which will be used to support various activities in the school. Thanks go to all who contributed items, made donations, and bought many wonderful baskets.

Mary Moyer

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Bugle Notes . . . Sweet and Sour

- ♪ Condolences to Mary Moyer on the death of her sister, Gretel Stites Cummings Friedman, in New York City on February 20. She died from complications of a fall and a broken hip. She leaves behind her husband Larry.
- ♪ Congratulations to a local girl who qualified to swim in the Junior Olympic Championships held the first weekend of March. She swims for the Curl-Burke Swim Club and the Garrett Park Ladybugs.
- ♪ A bridal shower was held for Emma Lincoln and her groom-to-be, Kiyoshi Mino, on Saturday, March 3. Have you ever made a wedding dress out of two rolls of toilet paper, one roll of paper towels, and masking tape? The guests were challenged to do so, and came up with designs ranging from trim and neat to wildly extravagant—and even a Japanese kimono. The wedding will be held July 7 in Amherst, Massachusetts.
- ♪ Congratulations go to long-time resident Jeremy Lichtenstein, a realtor with Re/Max Realty Services in Bethesda, for earning the number 1 position for a Re/Max agent in the states of Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, and Washington, D.C., for the year 2006. He also ranked 55 out of 120,000 agents in the world! Way to go, Jeremy.
- ♪ Ken Schwartz is back home again after 2 years in Kosovo. Welcome back, Ken.

Letter from the Mayor

The tragedy at Denise and Sonny Unterman's house on Wednesday afternoon, March 14, saddens us all. Melissa Bronez and others of the Citizens Association are standing by to coordinate town residents' offers of assistance.

At the March Town Council Meeting, I announced a new ad-hoc committee called NEAR (Neighbors' Essential Action Response), composed of Linda Knowles, Barbara Thompson, Phyllis Kaufman, and Kathy Gagnon. They will be identifying town residents who might need assistance in the event of weather emergencies or in other cases, coordinating volunteers, recommending ways that the town staff can assist, and exploring resources from the County and State Departments for Aging that might be available to town residents. If you would like to help, please call the Town Office (301-933-7488).

The new speed limit signs are up all around town. Please remember to drive slowly, and watch for walkers, children playing, and pets.

I have written earlier about the amount that Pepco is charging the town for the maintenance of our streetlights, which are very energy efficient and have a long life. The City of Frederick has used the lights for 14 years, and none of them has burned out yet. If the maintenance rate increase that Pepco is currently seeking goes into effect in May, barring any other rate changes in the next 11 years, the town will pay \$1050.44 for the main-

tenance of each bulb when we plan to change the bulbs after 15 years of use.

I was in Annapolis two days in the first week of March to testify for a bill that will allow the town to own the lights and find much more cost-effective maintenance for our lights. The testimony of the municipalities was so effective that Pepco has withdrawn its objections to the bill. Councilmember Al Carr from Kensington was the leader of the campaign for the bill, and Garrett Park was the first to join Kensington in the campaign. The bill passed the Senate on Thursday, March 15. After our testimony, the Mayor of Kensington and I were given a tour of the Governor's and Lieutenant Governor's offices by Governor Martin O'Malley.

In other Pepco news, I have discovered that Pepco has been overcharging the town for the energy costs of our streetlights. On the December 2006 bill alone, we were overcharged by \$167.79. I have written Pepco urging an immediate recalculation of our bills since June 2004 (when the new lights were installed), reimbursement of the overcharges, and the appropriate billing henceforth. The saga goes on.

Caroline Shawaker

Film Society

The Film Society is not showing any film in March. However, on April 13 at the Town Hall, we will be presenting the 1995 comedy *Cold Comfort Farm*. So save the date and expect good entertainment—eccentric and very funny. Also, we will have a delightful British dinner menu. Shepherd's pie and much more!

Don't you wish you could stop time?

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Les Henig
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